

THE STERLING BANK OF CANADA

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Only those who can manage their own affairs at a profit need expect any degree of success.

War Bond Interest Coupons and Cheques Cashed Free.



The Merchants Bank will cash all War Loan coupons or interest cheques when due, on presentation, without making any charge whatever for the service.

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THE MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA

Head Office: Montreal. Established 1864.
WATFORD BRANCH, F. A. MacLEAN, Manager.
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The Guide-Advocate "Want [Column]"

is consulted by everyone. The cheapest form of advertising

FAKE GRAIN VARIETIES TO TEMPT FARMERS

Experimental Farms Note Warns
Growers Against Plausible
Agents

Each year many farmers are the victims of plausible agents who are selling so-called new varieties of grain, says an Experimental Farms note, issued by the Department of Agriculture. Making extravagant claims, they charge a corresponding price, and only too often the farmer, who naturally desires more productive varieties if obtainable, pays an exorbitant price for a supposedly new and prolific sort, which is either an old variety camouflaged with a new name or else a selection whose qualities are entirely unknown. Being divisible into classes, these agents and their claims can be grouped conveniently as follows:—

First, those who take a high yielding, prolific variety such as Banner or O.A.C. No. 72 oats, give it another name and introduce it as a new variety.

Second, those who are selling a variety that has been multiplied from a peculiar plant or from extraordinary heads found in the general crop. The producer, thinking it a valuable variety, offers it for sale before its qualities are known.

Third, those who are offering for sale to a few limited customers only a wonderful variety that was produced by a secret process of selection or else has been grown from seed found in the tombs of the ancient Pharaohs.

A fourth class might be made of those who sell a variety for what it is, but make extravagant claims for its yielding ability. This is well illustrated by the Alaska or seven-headed wheat.

The agent in the first case is a financial shark who is obtaining money by pretenses. He perhaps does the least harm of any beyond

the confusion created in the nomenclature of varieties and the money which he takes from the farmer.

In the second case the agent may be acting in the best of faith and with the conviction that his claims will be justified by the resulting crop. Perhaps they will be, but the varieties are legion that have been introduced in this way and have been found worthless in comparative tests with standard varieties.

The third agent, though, is the real out-and-out grain fakir, and should be liable to prosecution. The farmer who is deceived by his pretences almost deserves to pay the price of his credulity.

It is the right of any person who has multiplied out a selection of grain to sell it for what it is and charge any price he sees fit. Against these well-intentioned legitimate transactions we have nothing to say beyond warning the farmer that at the best he is likely only buying an old variety and that exceedingly few of these amateur selections are ever of value.

What is advisable is that in every case before buying a variety that he intends to grow as a general crop the farmer should consult the reports of his nearest experimental station. The remedy for the actual frauds that are perpetrated is in his own hands. As long as he will buy the agents will sell, and the efforts put forth by the cereal stations of Canada for the improvement of crops will continue to be partially frustrated.—Canadian Official record.

TUBER DISEASE DANGER

Blackleg Decreases Potato Yield
Thousands of Bushels.

Raising Pork Is a Profitable Sideline
on the Dairy Farm—Expert
Advises One Brood Sow for Each
Ten Cows on Average Farm.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of
Agriculture, Toronto.)

BLACKLEG of potatoes is a disease that has been causing heavy losses to potato growers in many districts during the past few years. As the name of the disease implies, there is a blackening of the lower parts of stems of the potato plant affected. Accompanying the discoloration there is a soft rotting condition followed by shrinkage and death.

The disease is usually first noticed in the young growing crop when the plants are from four inches to a foot high. In looking over a field in which the disease is present, it will be seen that the tops of certain plants have lost their bright dark green appearance, having faded to a more or less dirty yellowish or brownish color. These tops will be somewhat limp and drooping, and in some cases where the disease is well advanced will have dropped right over. If a careful examination of the lower stems of these affected plants is made it will be seen that they are blackened and soft rotting. This blackening and soft rotting is more noticeable below the soil than above it. By carefully removing the soil from around an affected plant the blackening and soft-rotting can usually be traced to the seed tuber. As a rule in such cases the seed tuber will be found to be in a soft-rotting, slimy condition, the soil immediately beneath it being in a wet, puddled condition due to the wetness from the soft-rotted seed tuber. In such cases the disease in the plant has developed from an affected seed tuber and passed up the young growing stems, causing them to discolor and rot and eventually to fall over dead or dying. Sometimes all the stems in a hill will be affected and the whole plant die down. Sometimes, however, only a few of the stems will be affected and the remainder will appear to develop normally. If the season is a dry one a number of tubers may be produced on such plants which may mature and appear alright at harvest, but if the season is a wet one the disease will spread to the tubers and cause them to rot in a soft, slimy condition before harvest, or if they are harvested before the rot is very noticeable in them, they are liable to rot in storage or to carry the disease over to the next season.

It is tubers from such affected plants which are mostly responsible for carrying the disease over from season to season and spreading it from district to district. Such tubers, if used for seed purposes, will give a considerable percentage of blackleg-affected plants. Consequently, the greatest care should be taken in

the selection of seed tubers. If any indication of rot, either wet or dry, is found on a tuber, or any brown discoloration of the potato tissue when cut into, it should be discarded and not used for seed purposes.

Though spraying with Bordeaux Mixture will help to control fungus diseases, such as late and early blight of potatoes, it is of no use in controlling blackleg. Blackleg is a bacterial disease that gets into the plant either from an affected seed tuber or from the soil. It works from below upward and by the time it gets much above the ground it will usually have killed the plant. Consequently, spraying the tops of potatoes will not prevent the disease.

To prevent the disease developing, plant only sound, healthy, well-selected seed and do not plant on land that has produced blackleg plants the previous season.—Prof. D. H. Jones, O. A. College, Guelph.

How Many Pigs to a Cow?

Pigs and cows work very well together as the hog is one of the most economical meat producers on the farm, and does especially well on dairy by-products—skim milk, buttermilk and whey.

The number of pigs per cow will depend on the kind of dairying the farmer is engaged in. If selling milk for direct consumption, for the milk condensory, or for the powder milk factory, there is no by-product, hence it is doubtful if hogs, under these conditions, will pay at all, especially with an uncertain market. Whey, from the cheese factory, will not support so many pigs per cow as will skim milk and buttermilk from the farm dairy, or creamery.

On the average, we recommend one brood sow for each ten cows supplying milk to a cheese factory, and one sow for five or six cows where cream or butter is sold from the farm. If a sow reared 10 or 12 pigs each year, this would work out at from one to two pigs per cow on a dairying farm. There are times when a much greater number than this would be on the farm, as the pigs would be in various stages of maturity. The farmer and successful pig-raiser aims to keep up a regular procession of pigs from the sow to the bacon factory. This plan tends to stabilize markets, prevents the glut which frequently demoralizes the bacon business and causes farmers to stay in the hog game, instead of playing "in and out" which is not good for any business.—Prof. H. H. Dean, O. A. College, Guelph.

AHEAD OF HIS TIME.

Swedish Tailor Invented Caterpillar
Tractor.

To have evolved the idea of the caterpillar tractor and see visions of millions as a result of the invention, and then experience the oft repeated fate of the inventor who came upon the scene too soon and died obscure and unknown, was the lot of J. E. Bergsten, a Swedish tailor who operated a small shop in Colfax, Ill., in 1897.

While plying his needle, making and repairing men's garments, he pictured a vehicle which would make its own track and be independent of roads or horses. Twenty years or more later, his idea, developed into the great "tanks," helped mightily to win the great war. Bergsten was poor and friendless. He was a native of Sweden and came to this continent when a youth to make his fortune. He was a great admirer of John Ericsson, the inventor of the monitor, and hoped to achieve the fame of his countryman by his invention of the tractor, now known as the "caterpillar" and which has realized millions for the companies manufacturing them and which were sent to Europe by the thousands during the four-year war recently concluded.

Ericsson produced his invention at the psychological moment and when it was needed the most, and became famous in a day. Bergsten was twenty years ahead of his time and his invention was hoisted, his model disintegrated and he and his idea all but forgotten. The accidental discovery a few days ago of a photograph of Bergsten propelling his extraordinary contrivance along the streets of Colfax recalled the story and the older inhabitants jogged their memories. As they recollected the invention of Bergsten, it was operated by means of treadles, something like a bicycle. He termed it the "Self Track-Laying Road Carriage." The track was composed of ten jointed sections, moving around the propelling force. As the machine advanced, the track was laid ahead, picked up at the rear, carried along over the head of the operator and then laid again. Reels at the front and rear, carried the track. The forward reel was hung on a pivot so that the machine could turn a corner if desired.

Bergsten hoped to install a motor which would operate the machine, but when he endeavored to interest the moneyed men of the community, they jeered at him and declined to advance him a nickel. His device became the laughing stock of the community and the derision was so pronounced that the inventor, bitterly disappointed, left the town and was heard from no more. It required the success of the automobile to attract attention to tractors and trucks and Bergsten's idea, twenty years later, was developed into practical form, and the millions that Bergsten hoped to realize went to others of a succeeding generation.

Ford Announcement

Electric Starting and Lighting System

—Consisting of Generator, Starting
Motor and Storage Battery.

—An electric system made for Ford cars by the Ford Motor Company of Canada in their own factory; built into the Ford motor which has been re-designed for the purpose.

—Controlled from a complete instrument board on the cowl.

Standard Equipment on Sedans and Coupes

All closed models now have electric starting and lighting system as Standard Equipment.

Ford Sedan \$1175 Ford Coupe \$975
(Including Ford Starter and Lighting System)
Prices are f.o.b. Ford, Ont., and are subject to War Tax.

Ford Closed Models will, for a time, take the entire production of Starting and Lighting Systems.

By June 1st, however, Ford Touring Cars and Roadsters will be supplied with Starting and Lighting as Optional Equipment at an extra charge.

Samples of the Ford Starting and Lighting System are now on exhibit at all Ford Branches. In the near future we also expect to be able to show a complete sample outfit. You are invited to call and inspect it.

Ray Morningstar

DEALER

WATFORD